

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 32478 291351Z

43

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 VO-03

CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/088 W

----- 034567

P R 291140Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6573

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 32478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UNHCR, CB, TH

SUBJECT: REPORTED REFOULEMENT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

REF: (A) BANGKOK 32312 (B) STATE 289907

1. REFTELS CONCERNING THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF 26 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMELAND NOV 23 EVIDENTLY CROSSED. AS EMBASSY REPORTED IN REF A, THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED INDICATION THAT THEY WERE EXECUTED, JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASCERTAIN FACTS IN CASE SINCE INITIAL AP STORY APPEARED NOV 25 HAVE ENCOUNTERED VIRTUAL STONEWALL WITHIN RTG. WE ASSUME THIS IS INDICATION THAT THIA ARE NOT VERY PROUD OF WHAT THEY DID AND ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE ABOUT IT.

2. AP BUREAU CHIEF DENIS GRAY TOOK INITIATIVE TO CONTACT TWO PRINCIPAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS IN BANGKOK TO INFORM THEM OF STORY. TO GENERAL SURPRISE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 32478 291351Z

EVERYONE, BOTH RAN SHORT ITEMS ON IT, OMITTING THE

EMOTIONAL SCENE AT THE BRIDGE AS THE REFUGEES WERE
PRODDED ACROSS IT AND NEGLECTING TO MENTION ANYTHING
ABOUT POSSIBLE EXECUTIONS. THAI LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT
TOUCHED STORY SO FAR. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT INTERIOR MINISTER
SAMAK SUNTHORAWET EXPLODED WHEN LEARNING NOV 27 THAT SUCH
REFOULEMENT HAD OCCURRED. HE IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED POLICE
DIRGEN LT. GEN. MONCHAI PHANKHONGCHUN, WHO SAID HE WAS
UNAWARE OF EXPULSION ORDER. (THAI IMMIGRATION SERVICE
COMES UNDER POLICE BUT INPRACTICE OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY.)

3. THERE SHOULD BE NEWS FILTERING OUT OF TRG IN NEXT FEW
DAY ON TPIS CASE. HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS GIVEN UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE
BERTA FULL AUTHORITY TO DO WHATEVER HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

4. IMPORTANT POINT OF COURSE, IS WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE
FUTURE. ISOC STATEMENT QUOTED IN AP STORY THAT "PROVINCIAL
GOVERNORS WILL FROM NOW ON NOT LET ANY REFUGEES STAY IN
THAILAND" IS NOW THOUGHT BY UNHCR TO HAVE BEEN MADE OFF THE
TOP OF THE OFFICIAL'S HEAD. IT IS NOT THOUGHT THAT THERE
HAS BEEN REAL CHANGE OF POLICY, ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE
TO WATCH THIS. NEEDLESS TO SAY REFUGEES AT ARANYAPRATHET
ARE IN STATE OF PANIC ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURE. MEANWHILE,
50 CAMBODIANS RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM REFUGEE CAMP AT TRAT,
LEADING TO RUMORS THAT THEY WERE ALSO KC INFILTRATORS,
RATHER THAN THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT THEY WERE SIMPLY
TIRED OF LIVING IN A CONFINING CAMP.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, REFUGEES, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO32478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760441-0555
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976115/aaaaaeii.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 32312, 76 STATE 289907
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED REFOULEMENT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, CB, TH, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006